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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

SUCCESS STORY Long-Term FP Method Saves a Marriage



Dr. Anasthasie Namegabe PSI/ASF

Pascaline in front of the Mayamba Health Center after testifying during an education session. She is happy with her new sexual life.

With USAID funding under the AIDSTAR project, PSI (Population Services International), through its DRC local affiliate the Association de Santé Familiale, promotes family planning (FP) through a social franchising of clinics named "Confiance". The Mayamba Health Center is part of it. In this franchise, FP products are provided, service providers trained, FP service delivery equipments and communication materials provided, community-based agents trained and education sessions in health centers and community conducted. Constant supervision is done by PSI/ASF to ensure that minimum service delivery quality standards are met to continue being part of the franchise. 133 clinics in DRC are part of the "Confiance" network.

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Pascaline lives in Kingabwa, Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of Congo. She was grieved by a serious marital problem: "We already have six children, I am 36 years old. My husband is a civil servant and I don't want more children. Rather, we want to have an enjoyable sexual life. That's our joint decision. In spite of that, whenever it was time to have sexual intercourse I was haunted by the thought of getting pregnant again. So, I abruptly refused and turned away from my husband, while already in bed. That made him violent. He threatened to look for another wife if I continued to refuse."

This couple tried to use condoms during Pascaline's fertile periods; still she was not totally comfortable with this method as she recalled that in the past the duration of her menstrual cycle had changed about twice. So, she continued to turn her back from her husband while in bed. According to her, the situation got worse.

During a visit to the Mayamba Health Center, located in her neighborhood, for her last child's preschool vaccination, she attended an education session conducted by community-based agents trained by PSI/ASF under the *Confiance* FP social franchise. Right there, she was presented a choice of different modern family planning methods provided by the *Association de Santé Familiale* (ASF), a partner of *Population Services International* (PSI), with USAID/DRC's stock and was explained how they work. She immediately realized that with the *Jadelle*® implant she will not have to count the days of her menstrual cycle nor be obliged to take pills on a daily basis or come to the health center very often. She rushed to her husband and disclosed her discovery. Both of them were happy and immediately agreed that she be inserted the *Jadelle*® implant. Pascaline benefited from one of the 552 *Jadelle*® implants distributed during the first quarter of the fiscal year 2012 under the USAID-funded project *Advancing Social Marketing for Health in DRC*.

"We are happy in our couple again: my husband is happy and so am I. No more disputes over sex but enjoyment," concluded Pascaline.